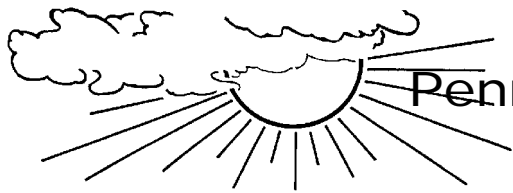




United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Pennsylvania Agricultural
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Pennsylvania: Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending April 9, 2000

Visit us at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/>

Very Poor Week for Field Work: There were 2.8 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 4 percent short, 74 percent adequate and 21 percent surplus. Activities included spring plowing, planting oats and tobacco; fixing fences; machinery maintenance; ordering supplies; spreading lime and fertilizers; hauling manure; caring for livestock; spraying herbicides; pruning trees; and planting alfalfa.

Crops: The fall seeded crops were starting to green up and were showing good growth. Barley and wheat fields were looking good, but some annual weed problems were reported in barley. Planting of oats has started in some areas around the state. Alfalfa and timothy clover were mostly in good condition. Tobacco planting was 14 percent behind last year and 6 percent behind the five-year average. Spring plowing was 26 percent complete, 4 percent behind last year and the same as the five-year average.

Livestock: Pasture growth was slow due to the cool weather. It was still too early for much grazing on the pastures. Forty-seven percent of the pasture land was rated good to excellent compared to 40 percent last week.

Fruit & Vegetables: Fruit trees were beginning to bud. Some areas reported slow development this past week. Vegetable farmers are beginning to plant sweet corn under plastic in some areas.

U.S. As Of April 2, 2000: Field preparations and spring planting gained momentum, as warm, dry weather prevailed across most

of the Nation. A band of heavy rain temporarily halted field-work in parts of the southern Great Plains, lower Mississippi Valley, and Southeast. Most areas welcomed the precipitation that improved soil moisture levels. However, some areas received damaging winds and hail, and flooding along some streams. In parts of the central and southern Great Plains, soils were saturated by excessive rainfall, and water was standing in some low-lying fields. In the Corn Belt, farmers rapidly prepared corn and soybean fields for planting. Small grain seeding rapidly progressed in the Great Plains and gained momentum in the Corn Belt. Four percent of the Nation's winter wheat was at the heading stage, compared with 2 percent last year and 1-percent average for this date. Above-normal temperatures promoted rapid development in the southern Great Plains and Southeast. Both stages were well ahead of last year and the 5-year average, even though temperatures were cooler-than-normal in parts of the State. However, some wheat fields were yellowing due to saturated soils and standing water. Nationally, 2 percent of the corn acreage was planted, equal to last year's and slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Planting was complete in southern regions of the State. Dry weather provided ideal planting conditions along the Ohio River Valley in the southern Corn Belt and Tennessee River Valley. Dry conditions also aided field preparations in the Corn Belt. Field tillage rapidly progressed throughout the Corn Belt. Oat seeding advanced to 11 percent, equal to last year's rapid early-season progress, and ahead of the 5-percent average for this date. Dry weather aided progress in the central Great Plains. The barley acreage was 5 percent seeded, equal to the 5-year average, but slightly behind last year's pace. Progress was aided by dry weather in the Pacific Northwest.

PA Crop Progress For Week Ending April 9, 2000

| | Current Week | Last Week | Last Year | 5-Year Average |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| | Percent | | | |
| Spring Plowing | 26 | 20 | 30 | 26 |
| Oats, Planted | 21 | 8 | 23 | 22 |
| Oats, Emerged | 6 | 3 | 1 | N/A |
| Tobacco Beds, Planted | 75 | 15 | 89 | 81 |
| Peaches, Pink Stage | 57 | 39 | 21 | 20 |
| Peaches, Full Bloom | 36 | 17 | 14 | 12 |
| Cherries, Pink Stage | 25 | 12 | 14 | 16 |
| Cherries, Full Bloom | 15 | 0 | 9 | 10 |

N/A = Not available

PA Crop Condition For Week Ending April 9, 2000

| | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| | Percent | | | | |
| Winter Wheat | 0 | 1 | 18 | 70 | 11 |
| Oats | 2 | 0 | 69 | 29 | 0 |
| Alfalfa, Stands | 1 | 4 | 23 | 62 | 10 |
| Timothy Clover, Stands | 5 | 9 | 28 | 51 | 7 |
| Pasture Conditions | 4 | 5 | 44 | 41 | 6 |

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STATISTICS SERVICE

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Weather Data For Week Ending April 9, 2000

| Reporting Station | Weekly Temperature | | | | Growing Degree Days From April 1 | | | | Rainfall - Values Are For A 24-Hour Period Ending 7:00 A.M., In Inches | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----|-----|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|
| | High | Low | Avg | Dep From Norm | 40 Degrees | | 50 Degrees | | April | | | | | | | For Week | From April 1 | |
| | | | | | Days | Dep From Norm | Days | Dep From Norm | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | Total | Total | Dep From Norm |
| Erie | 64 | 30 | 45 | 2 | 64 | 40 | 5 | 5 | 0.27 | 1.06 | 1.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.20 | 0.43 | 3.98 | 4.32 | 3.37 |
| Warren | 63 | 26 | 44 | 4 | 51 | 47 | 7 | 7 | 0.42 | 1.15 | 0.27 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.78 | 1.10 | 3.77 | 4.43 | 3.39 |
| Franklin | 68 | 26 | 46 | 5 | 75 | 66 | 15 | 15 | 0.00 | 1.35 | 0.21 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.16 | 2.72 | 2.87 | 1.83 |
| Clearfield | 67 | 26 | 46 | 4 | 62 | 50 | 10 | 10 | 0.08 | 0.68 | 1.06 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.07 | 0.36 | 2.25 | 2.36 | 1.37 |
| Pittsburgh | 67 | 27 | 48 | 2 | 92 | 35 | 14 | 14 | 0.24 | 0.90 | 0.99 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.11 | 0.54 | 2.78 | 3.11 | 2.12 |
| Rector | 72 | 24 | 47 | 0 | 64 | 7 | 11 | 11 | 0.31 | 0.87 | 0.29 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.62 | 2.09 | 2.53 | 1.54 |
| Altoona | 70 | 26 | 51 | 6 | 106 | 72 | 23 | 23 | 0.11 | 0.59 | 0.56 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.39 | 1.65 | 1.74 | 0.84 |
| Emporium | 66 | 28 | 44 | 2 | 53 | 41 | 6 | 6 | 0.59 | 1.13 | 0.08 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.53 | 0.46 | 2.81 | 3.15 | 2.16 |
| Wellsboro | 64 | 21 | 44 | 5 | 51 | 51 | 6 | 6 | 0.84 | 1.39 | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.21 | 0.77 | 3.31 | 3.49 | 2.77 |
| State College | 73 | 27 | 49 | 6 | 97 | 76 | 23 | 23 | 0.03 | 0.74 | 0.07 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.59 | 1.45 | 1.57 | 0.73 |
| Williamsport | 72 | 28 | 51 | 5 | 118 | 67 | 21 | 21 | 0.05 | 0.99 | 0.06 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 1.35 | 2.51 | 2.79 | 1.75 |
| Selinsgrove | 73 | 27 | 52 | 7 | 113 | 72 | 26 | 26 | 0.00 | 1.04 | 0.10 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 1.29 | 2.44 | 2.90 | 1.91 |
| Montrose | 71 | 23 | 47 | 7 | 70 | 69 | 12 | 12 | 0.22 | 1.27 | 0.35 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.04 | 1.40 | 3.28 | 4.57 | 3.47 |
| Scranton | 74 | 26 | 53 | 8 | 125 | 86 | 35 | 35 | 0.00 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.05 | 2.05 | 2.77 | 1.87 |
| Allentown | 76 | 28 | 55 | 8 | 146 | 92 | 48 | 48 | 0.01 | 0.31 | 0.38 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.56 | 1.26 | 2.20 | 1.07 |
| Reading | 76 | 28 | 56 | 10 | 167 | 121 | 58 | 58 | 0.00 | 0.26 | 0.37 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.61 | 1.24 | 2.00 | 0.92 |
| Harrisburg | 76 | 31 | 56 | 8 | 179 | 106 | 57 | 57 | 0.02 | 0.36 | 0.29 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.99 | 1.66 | 2.83 | 1.93 |
| Biglerville | 75 | 29 | 53 | 7 | 145 | 93 | 41 | 41 | 0.02 | 0.37 | 0.08 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.97 | 1.44 | 1.94 | 0.95 |
| Lancaster | 74 | 30 | 55 | 7 | 149 | 76 | 47 | 47 | 0.00 | 0.34 | 0.40 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.71 | 1.45 | 2.17 | 1.27 |
| Philadelphia | 75 | 30 | 58 | 9 | 203 | 122 | 74 | 74 | 0.00 | 0.11 | 0.18 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.46 | 0.75 | 1.62 | 0.54 |

Weather Summary By: National Weather Service, State College, Pennsylvania

Crop Summary By: Eric Stout & Carrie Louey, Agricultural Statisticians, NASS

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